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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAME/INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,466	01/16/2001	Bk W Lee	01/948.06/002	5261

21559 7880 02/26/2002

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EXAMINER

QUAN, CHINE X

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3636

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2002

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/761,466

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL

Examiner

celine Qian

Art Unit

1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of
- 1 ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received
- 2 ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____
- 3 ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121.

- I. Claims 1-12, drawn to a nucleic acid molecule, classified in class 536, subclass 24.1.
- II. Claim 13, drawn to a method for inducing a cell to become a cardiomyocyte, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1
- III. Claim 14, drawn to a method for specifically expressing a gene in a cardiac cell, classified in class 435, subclass 91.1.
- IV. Claim 15, drawn to a method for determining the efficacy of a method of inducing stem cells to produce or become cardiac cells, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1.
- V. Claim 16, drawn to a method of identifying a cell as a cardiac cell, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1.
- VI. Claim 17, drawn to a method of purifying a cardiac cell from a heterogeneous population of cells, classified in class 435, subclass 325.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other for the following reasons:

Inventions I and II-VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP

§ 806 05(h)). In the instant case, the nucleic acid molecule can be used in methods other than the ones claimed in Groups II-VI. For example, the nucleic acid can also be used as probe in hybridization assay. Therefore, inventions I and II-VI are patentably distinct.

Inventions II-VI are patentably distinct, each from the other because the inventions are drawn to methods that require different starting material and modes of operation. Each method involves different steps. Therefore, the inventions of Group II-VI are patentably distinct.


Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Celine X Qian whose telephone number is 703-306-0283. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Remy Yucel can be reached on 703-305-1998. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Celine Qian, Ph D
January 29, 2002


REMY YUCEL, PH.D
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600